277 acres and 14 gunthás in the aggregate, sold for Rs. 11,077; some of the prices were very high, as the following will show :—

Range.	Name of Forest Block.	Area of Coupe.		Price		
		A.	g.	Rs.	a.	p.
Sholápur	Sholápur	33	4	5,141	0	0
	Irvádi	60	9	1,363	0	0
	Hátur	26	34	1,226	0	0
	Hodgi	31	15	153	0	0
	Márdi	32	37	62	0	0
	Karkal	16	39	1,802	0	0
Mádhe...	Papnus	26	1	262	0	0
	Mhaisgaon	34	2	850	0	0
Pandharpur	Karkamb	15	33	218	9	0
	Total ..	277	14	11,077	0	0

(2). Selection Fellings.

127. There were no operations of this class in the Khándesh, Násik, Ahmednagar and Poona divisions. In the Sátára District the removal of dead and dying timber from the reserved forests on the plains on the left bank of the Krishna River in the Tásgaon Range, may possibly come under this description, but the operation is rather one of improvement; and in the Sholápur Division a selection felling was made in the Sadar-Bázár reserved forest at Sholápur, where 18,735 cubic feet of firewood, mostly bábul, were removed departmentally, and sold by auction for Rs 2,102, giving a very high profit.

(3). Improvement fellings and (4) Coppice fellings.

128. The fellings of teak in which regeneration is mainly dependent upon coppice shoots, but not entirely so, as seeds are sown within the coupes in prepared patches, and seedling trees are consequently grown, may be justly called a mixture of both of these systems;—improvement because the axe is directed with a view to remove old diseased ill-growing trees and to better the forest; —and coppice because the major portion of the trees, which are felled, reproduce by shoots from the old roots in the ground, and this is the mainstay of the reproduction.

129. In the East Khándesh Division, the teak forests in the Patna glen, and at Wadale also of the Chálisgaon Range; in Lahasur, Pimpalgaon and Gortale in the Jámner Range; were thus worked.

130. In the West Khándesh Division, the Dhulia and Sindkheda firewood fellings, and the Nizámpur teak fellings, were all improvement. Anjan (Hardwickia binata) is the principal tree in the Dhulia firewood forest, and as it coppices well, the good growth of new shoots is assured by trimming the stools with an adze, as the felling operation with the axe does not leave them flush with the ground, and clean and smooth.

131. In the Násik Division, twelve coupes in 4 ranges were worked for firewood, the species being mostly bábul.

132. In the Ahmednagar Division, bábul trees were exploited departmentally in the ranges of Nagar, Ráhuri, and Kopargaon for the improvement of seven forest blocks. 137 trees, containing 1,289 cubic feet of wood, were removed at a cost of about Rs. 1½ per 100 cubic feet, and the wood sold at Rs. 7-8-0 per 100 cubic feet; teak and jambhul forests in five ranges were worked departmentally on the coppice system, when 29,443 trees, which yielded 25,250 poles with 111,614 cubic feet of firewood, were felled; the cost of the operation amounting to Rs. 1,212-3-0, while the wood sold at auction for Rs. 8,547-5-9.

133. In the Poona Division, the teak and junglewood forests in the ranges bordering the Western Ghâts were worked with a view to cutting out all unsound and inferior wood, and to produce good, vigorous coppice shoots from the stools of the felled teak trees which are mostly small of girth, short and

deformed. All young, sound and promising trees are reserved to develop, and to be natural shedders of seed. About 44,734 trees were felled in the forests of 6 ranges, producing 61,638 poles and miscellaneous pieces, with 29,690 cubic feet of firewood, which cost Rs. 2,858 to exploit, and realised Rs. 26,544 at auction sales.

134. One compartment in each of 9 different forest blocks, spread over six ranges in the Sátára Division, the aggregate area of the coupes being about 615 acres, was exploited departmentally, the timber being almost entirely teak: of which 9,456 pieces with 69,407 cubic feet of firewood, which had cost Rs. 2,296 to bring out to sale depôts, were sold at auction and realised Rs. 9,665. All young and promising growth was left to increase, and the reserves totalled about 4,11¼ teak, intermingling with 11,068 junglewood trees.

135. In the Sholápur Division, no forests are worked on either of these systems.

(*5*). *Unregulated Fellings.*

136. In the East Khándesh Division, the fellings made by the Bhils in exercise of their rights or privileges in the Sátpudá forests come under this denomination. There is absolutely no control, save the reservation of a few 3 or 4 favoured kinds of trees: they go into the forests and cut at will, removing what they like, and leaving to rot and burn what they like: they are not regulated by permits, are not restricted to particular or defined areas, nor tied down to any season or period of time. And the natural result is the depletion of certain, the more accessible, portions of the forests.

137. Under this heading too come all the timber fellings on the Bhil settlements in the West Khándesh Division, which are made in the Shirpur, Taloda, Akráni, Nandurbár, Navápur and Pimpalner ranges, the object being to cut as many trees as will sell, and to clear the lands for cultivation or unrestricted use by their occupants as soon as possible. The Bhil privileges in this division are likewise unregulated fellings in the fullest interpretation of the term.

138. Fellings of trees to meet free grants in all divisions are unregulated save by the demand; they have to be made at any time convenient to the grantees and in localities most suitable to them.

139. In the clearing of boundary lines of reserved forests in the Peint Range of the Násik Division, and in the several ranges of the Sátára Division, the fellings are only regulated by the growth on the ground to be cleared. In the same manner the clear fellings of teak and other royal trees upon occupied lands in the Násik, Poona and Sátára divisions are not regulated by any plan dictated by forestry.

(*e*). Extraction and Transport of Major Forest Produce by land and water.

140. Water carriage for the transport of forest produce is nowhere resorted to in the Central Circle at present. The timber and firewood cut departmentally in the several divisions are stacked at temporary sale depôts, either inside or outside the boundaries of the forests, generally in sites accessible to carts, and the removal of the wood subsequent to its sale is left to the purchasers. It is far better that private enterprise should concern itself with the distribution of timber and forest produce to satisfy the wants of local supply and the requirements of trade than the Forest Department should embark in such speculations. However, cases do happen when the market will not come to the forests, and the Forest Department have necessarily to convey timber and other forest produce long distances to obtain a market, but no cases of the kind have occurred in the Central Circle during the year of this report. When timber and other forest produce is sold on foot, or on the trees to purchasers, they are required to make their own arrangements for its felling, collection, extraction or exploitation.

141. Permanently maintained roads and fair-weather cart tracks have been constructed in all directions in the country of the Central Circle, and there are but few forest areas which have not been opened out to vehicular communication. The railways are freely utilised for the distribution of timber and other forest produce after such have been brought to the railway lines.

142. In West Khándesh the Tápti River is used by timber dealers and others who purchase from the Forest Department for floating timber from the Navápur Range to Surat. And it will possibly be found practicable to utilise the Narbada as a water-way, for the produce of the Akráni forests to be conveyed to the markets of Gujarát when these forests are fully worked. At present, how-